

Nature Explore Workshops

*Presented by Arbor Day Foundation & Dimensions Educational Research Foundation
Arbor Day Farm, Lied Lodge and Conference Center, Nebraska City, Nebraska*



Schedule of Workshops and Presentations

Day One:

Presentation: Overview of the Nature Explore Program

This session will present a comprehensive overview of the national Nature Explore program. Information will be included on the design consultation process that has been successfully used to create Nature Explore Classrooms in public outdoor spaces (such as Wildlife Refuges) across the United States.

*Presented by Nancy Rosenow, Dimensions Foundation Executive Director
and Jim Wike, Senior Landscape Architect for Nature Explore*

Tour of Nature Explore Classrooms at Arbor Day Farm

Lunch

Learning With Nature Workshop

This interactive workshop emphasizes the need for children to have consistent time outdoors with an interested, caring adult. The group discusses some of the common barriers to children's ability to create positive connections with the natural world and what can be done to counteract them. This workshop will provide many resources and ideas that can be incorporated into programming in public settings.

Presented by Certified Dimensions Foundation Trainers

Optional Evening Activity

Enjoy reconnecting to nature as you take an evening walk on the beautiful grounds of Arbor Day Farm. Gather around the bon-fire for an evening of fun and music.



A Collaborative Project of
Arbor Day Foundation and
Dimensions Educational Research Foundation

Day Two:

Using Your Nature Explore Outdoor Classroom Workshop

Through fun and engaging hands-on experiences, you will gain techniques for using outdoor classrooms. Discover how well-designed outdoor spaces facilitate children's overall development in traditional academic areas, strengthen specific skills, and aid social-emotional growth. Explore a variety of motivating strategies for facilitating learning in outdoor classrooms, and reaching a variety of interests and needs.

Presented by Certified Dimensions Foundation Trainers

Lunch

The Wonders of Nature Workshop

This outdoor workshop will help you rekindle the "sense of wonder" we all need to live a fulfilled life. Participants are led through an outdoor session exploring and experimenting with activities that can be effectively used in Nature Explore Classrooms (as well as "wilder" areas) to help people connect more deeply with the natural world. "Revitalizing, fascinating and inspiring" are some of the words participants have used to describe this one-of-a-kind workshop.

Presented by Dimensions Foundation Certified Trainers

Day Three:

Moving To Learn Workshop

Watch any child and you will see that their bodies love to move. Brain research tells us that motor development is important for neural processing, especially for children who are kinesthetic learners. Children truly must move in order to learn well, and adults need practical strategies for developing purposeful movement experiences that work in indoor and outdoor settings. Discover effective techniques for providing movement opportunities for children that can help them in three key ways: gaining body control, gaining knowledge about the world, and having positive outlets for emotional expression.

Presented by Dimensions Foundation Certified Trainers

Lunch

Art and Nature Workshop

This workshop will present strategies that can be used in outdoor settings to help children express their knowledge and personal interpretation of the natural world in more meaningful ways. The Look-Move-Build-Sketch planning model is designed to help educators create multi-faceted art experiences. The projects explored during this workshop are inspired by nature and can be used as an effective family involvement tool in public settings such as Wildlife Refuges.

Presented by Dimensions Foundation Certified Trainers

Presentation: Community Engagement and Utilizing Volunteers in Creating, Maintaining and Supporting Nature Explore Classrooms

Presented by Nancy Rosenow